

Letter from the Editor

Human–Wildlife Interactions: 2019 in review



SINCE ITS INCEPTION in 2007 as the journal *Human–Wildlife Conflicts*, *Human–Wildlife Interactions* (HWI) has continued to focus on publishing original research articles, case studies, and commentaries that provide policymakers, managers, and other stakeholders information and insights to better manage a range of human–wildlife conflicts and improve human–wildlife interactions. As of this issue, we have published 530 papers from authors in >100 countries. To date, we also have had >250,000 papers downloaded in >190 countries. We average >130 downloads daily.

The Impact Factor (IF) for 2018–2019 for HWI is 1.115. Compared with historical IF data, HWI grew by 55.51%. The IF measures the average number of citations received in a particular year (2018) for papers published in the journal during the 2 preceding years.

Our 2017 partnership with Utah State University Libraries Digital Commons (<https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/>) and the Jack H. Berryman Institute (www.berrymaninstitute.org) has facilitated HWI's move in 2019 to an open-access platform. In 2020, HWI will be registered as an open-access journal. The move will allow authors to seek assistance from institutional and university libraries to help cover page and publication charges. These charges allow us and other journals to exist and to continue to meet the needs of our authors and readers.

In this issue, you will find papers from authors in France, India, Japan, and Mexico. Our topics range from wildlife–vehicle collisions to wildlife conservation policies, practices, and management. We also cover human dimensions of wildlife management and offer personal insights for professionals.

To ensure we continue to serve the needs of our authors by peer-reviewing, processing, and publishing their articles in a timely fashion, we have recruited additional associate editors (AEs), almost doubling our AE number from 2007. These changes cumulatively have resulted in an increase in the number of submissions necessitating the publishing of a third seasonal issue.

In this HWI issue, we introduce 2 new associate editors, David Dahlgren and Dwayne Elmore, and a new book editor, Jonathan Jenks, who is working with Rosanna Vail, HWI managing editor, to manage the review and publication of an update of the book, *Managing Cougars in North America*.

The continued growth of HWI would not have been possible without our dedicated AEs and reviewers. In 2020, we will continue to work to shorten our peer-review time from submission to publication decision. We also are investigating options to expedite the distribution and marketing of accepted papers prior to the publishing of an issue. This will ensure that our authors will receive maximum visibility of their work.

Lastly, we continue to seek new sponsorships. These sponsorships allow us to offer page charge waivers to authors who may lack the institutional or personal resources to cover the charges. Lack of access to resources to pay page charges should not be a condition impeding the publication of high-quality research, case studies, and commentaries that will contribute to improving human–wildlife interactions. To become more involved with HWI in 2020, I encourage you to reach out to us at hwi@usu.edu.

Terry A. Messmer, Editor-in-Chief
